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Amendments to the Claims:

1. (Original) A subpart of a drill string, the subpart including an outer circumferential surface which is contoured and adapted to engage a wall of an open uncased borehole in a sliding action with a low angle of attack essentially continuously exerting a compacting pressure on mud cake and/or cuttings present in the annulus between the drill string and said wall.
2. (Original) The subpart of claim 1 comprising a bottom and top section for connection to the drill string and a main section having an inner central bore for the passage of drilling fluid from the surface and one or more outer openings for said drilling fluid and cuttings return flow to the surface wherein an outer contour of said subpart is shaped to engage the open uncased wall of said borehole at an angle of attack of less than 45 degrees and extends to an outer diameter of more than 70% of a nominal diameter of said borehole.
3. (Original) The subpart of claim 2 comprising a cylindrical main section having an outer diameter of more than 70% of the nominal diameter of the borehole and one or more bores providing a return flow path for the drilling fluid and cuttings.
4. (Original) The subpart of claim 1 having an outer circumferential surface which is contoured and adapted to minimize laterally acting forces or resistance during a sliding action.
5. (Original) The subpart of claim 2 having one or two connectors adapted to connect to a drill collar section of the drill string.
6. (Original) The subpart of claim 2 having a bottom and top section for a force-transmitting connection to the drill string thus following a rotational motion of the drill string generated at a surface location.

7. (Original) The subpart of claim 1 wherein the contoured surface is made from an abrasive resistant material.
8. (Currently Amended) The subpart of claim 1 ~~or 2~~ having a central main section and two or more extendable elements adapted to simultaneously extend under drilling condition to contact the wall of the borehole.
9. (Original) The subpart of claim 8 wherein the two or more extendable elements engage under drilling conditions the wall of the borehole at an angle of attack of less than 45 degrees.
10. (Original) The subpart of claim 8 wherein the two or more extendable elements include compliant elements.
11. (Original) The subpart of claim 8 wherein the two or more extendable elements are adapted to engage the wall of the borehole when pressurized drilling fluid is pumped from a surface location through the drilling string.
12. (Original) The subpart of claim 8 wherein the two or more extendable elements include one or more nozzles connected by a flow path to the inner opening of the subpart.
13. (Original) The subpart of claim 8 wherein the two or more extendable elements include one or more hinge sections.
14. (Original) The subpart of claim 8 wherein the extendable element comprises a first extendable section and a second extendable section and a hinge element connecting said first and second extendable sections.

15. (Original) The subpart of claim 8 wherein the extendable element comprises an arcuate vane element rotatably mounted on a hinge element.
16. (Original) The subpart of claim 8 wherein the extendable element comprises a first extendable section and a second extendable section and a hinge element connecting said first and second extendable sections.
17. (Currently Amended) A drill string comprising one or more subparts ~~in a section~~ that passes through the open uncased borehole wherein said one or more subparts ~~in accordance with any of the preceding claims~~ includes an outer circumferential surface which is contoured and adapted to engage a wall of an open uncased borehole in a sliding action with a low angle of attack essentially continuously exerting a compacting pressure on mud cake and/or cuttings present in the annulus between the drill string and said wall.
18. (Currently Amended) A drill string of claim 17 ~~comprising one or more subparts in accordance with any of the preceding claims with at~~ wherein at least one of said one or more subparts being at a location in said drill string above a bottom hole assembly including drill collars.
19. (Currently Amended) A drill string of claim 17 ~~comprising~~ wherein a plurality of subparts ~~in accordance with any of the preceding claims~~ are located at intervals along the open hole section of the drill string.

20. (Original) A method of consolidating a borehole during a drilling operation comprising the steps of

- assembling a drill string including one or more subparts each having an outer circumferential surface which is contoured and adapted to engage a wall of an open uncased borehole with a low angle of attack essentially continuously exerting a compacting pressure on mud cake and/or cuttings present in the annulus between the drill string and said wall;
- pumping from a surface location a drilling fluid; and
- rotating said drill string from said surface location; thereby causing the subpart or subparts to slide along the wall of the borehole.

21. (Original) The method of claim 20 wherein the outer circumferential surface of the one or more subparts is essentially continuously forced into contact with the wall surrounding the borehole during the drilling operation.

22. (Original) The method of claim 21 using pressurized drilling fluid to force the outer circumferential surface into contact with the formation.

23. (New) The subpart of claim 2 having a central main section and two or more extendable elements adapted to simultaneously extend under drilling condition to contact the wall of the borehole.